

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:	)	
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TAKAHIRO IKEDA ET AL.	)	
	)	
Application No.: Unknown	)	Prior Group Art Unit: 2863
	)	
Filed: March 24, 2004	)	Prior Examiner: A. Bhat
	)	
For: GRAPHIC CONTOUR	)	Divisional Application of U.S. Patent
EXTRACTING METHOD,	)	Application Serial No. 10/188,889, filed
PATTERN INSPECTING	)	July 5, 2002
METHOD, PROGRAM AND	)	
PATTERN INSPECTING	)	
SYSTEM	)	

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** are included in this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims in this paper.